



Andreas Schaerer honored with the 2026 JTI Trier Jazz Award

The voice as an instrument

Trier / Cologne, 4 September 2026 – Swiss vocalist, composer and improviser Andreas Schaerer has been named the 2026 recipient of the JTI Trier Jazz Award, now in its 17th year. The award comes with €7,500 in prize money and was conferred by JTI Germany and the City of Trier on Thursday evening as part of the Moselle Music Festival and the “Jazz im Brunnenhof” concert series in Trier.

As part of the quartet “A Novel of Anomaly” (ANOVA), Schaerer showcased his remarkable musical range in an open-air concert alongside Italian accordionist Luciano Biondini, Finnish guitarist Kalle Kalima, and Swiss drummer Lucas Niggli.

Boundless versatility across rhythm, timbre and improvisation

Andreas Schaerer takes the human voice far beyond its traditional function. He sings, scats and improvises, creating rhythms, textures and sounds – at times using it to evoke an entire ensemble. The result is a distinctive musical language that transcends conventional genre boundaries.

“To describe Andreas Schaerer simply as a jazz singer would be a serious understatement,” said Dr. Peter KleiB, Chairman of the JTI Trier Jazz Award jury. “He is a vocal artist, singer and composer. Known for his extraordinary vocal versatility and creativity, he moves effortlessly between jazz, beatboxing and vocal improvisation. What impressed us most is that, for all his virtuosity, he never loses his connection with the audience, combining outstanding musicianship with an engaging sense of elegance.”

“A Novel of Anomaly” brings together four musicians with very different musical backgrounds. Drawing on their own compositions, they interact spontaneously to create a shared musical space where structure meets free improvisation and powerful rhythms give way to finely balanced passages.

From the Swiss Alps to stages around the world

Andreas Schaerer’s path to the international jazz scene began far from the world’s major concert halls. Born in Visp, Switzerland, in 1976, he spent his childhood and teenage years in the valleys of Valais, herding sheep on Alpine pastures, along the banks of the Aare in Bern and among the hills of the Emmental.

After training as a primary and secondary school teacher and spending a year travelling through Central and South America, Schaerer decided to make music his profession.



From 2000 to 2006, he studied voice, composition and arrangement at the Swiss Jazz School and the Bern University of the Arts. He gained international recognition particularly through his sextet “Hildegard Lernt Fliegen”, leading to worldwide concert tours and numerous accolades, including an ECHO Jazz Award for Best International Male Singer.

Today, Schaerer collaborates with renowned musicians from a wide range of genres. His projects have taken him to stages across Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas. Alongside his work as a vocalist and composer, he has taught jazz voice, improvisation and ensemble performance at Bern University of the Arts since 2010.

A long-standing commitment to the Trier’s cultural scene

Since 2010, an independent jury of experts has selected the recipients of the JTI Trier Jazz Award, recognizing musicians whose innovative ideas and distinctive artistic visions bring fresh perspectives to the international jazz scene. The award ceremony has been a regular fixture in the Moselle Music Festival programme since 2013.

“The JTI Trier Jazz Award reflects our long-standing commitment to promoting cultural diversity and strengthening Trier as a vibrant and open cultural hub,” says Nadia Rümmelein, Community Investment & Operations Lead Manager at JTI. “This commitment builds on the long history of our Trier site, which began with Haus Neuerburg in 1908 and continues today through the work of our employees and the use of modern technologies. Our 19 years as main sponsor of the Moselle Music Festival further underline our close ties to the region.”

The internationally renowned Moselle Music Festival is celebrating its 41st edition in 2026, with concerts at exceptional venues along the Moselle continuing until 3 October.

Andreas Schaerer & ANOA – “A Novel of Anomaly”:

Andreas Schaerer	Vocals
Luciano Biondini	Accordion
Kalle Kalima	Guitar
Lucas Niggli	Drums

Previous Recipients of the JTI Trier Jazz Award

2010:	Marilyn Mazur	Percussion, Piano
2011:	Oliver Strauch	Percussion
2012:	Toots Thielemans †	Harmonica, Guitar
2013:	Pascal Schumacher	Vibraphone
2014:	Stefano Bollani	Piano
2015:	Nicole Johännngen	Saxophone
2016:	Iiro Rantala	Piano
2017:	Markus Stockhausen	Trumpet
2018:	Ferenc Snétberger	Guitar
2019:	Eva Klesse	Percussion



2020:	Julia Hülsmann Trio	
	(Julia Hülsmann: Piano, Marc Muellbauer: Bass, Heinrich Köbberling: Drums)	
2021:	Nubya Garcia	Saxophone, Flute
2022:	Jelena Kulić	Vocals
2023:	Nils Wogram	Trombone
2024:	Luciano Biondini	Accordion
2025:	Sarah Chaksad	Saxophone, Composition, Arrangement

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Further Information

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